CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): An igniter, comprising:

a housing;

a gas supply in said housing and having an outlet valve;

a combustion nozzle supported relative to said housing and fluid connected to said outlet valve;

an igniting means supported relative to said housing for igniting gas at said combustion nozzle; and

a sliding switch assembly, which comprises:

a sliding button slidably mounted on said housing for opening said outlet valve and activating said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle when said sliding button is moved from a rest position thereof;

a thumbwheel pivotally mounted on said sliding button to rotatably move between a lock position and an unlock position, wherein at said lock position, said sliding button is locked by said thumbwheel to block a sliding movement of said sliding button for completing said ignition of said igniter, and at said unlock position, said thumbwheel is pivotally rotated in a direction opposite to said sliding movement of said sliding button to permit said sliding movement of said sliding button so as to allow said sliding button to slide on said housing to complete said ignition of said igniter; and

means for biasing said thumbwheel to said lock position thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 15, wherein said sliding switch assembly further comprises a connecting member which is slidably supported in said housing to support said sliding button and has a lower end extended to operate said outlet valve and an upper end extended to operate said igniting means such that when said connecting member is driven to slide by said sliding button from said rest position, said connecting member opens said outlet valve and activates said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle at the same time.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 15, wherein said sliding switch assembly further comprises a stop member supported within said housing at a position that said thumbwheel is blocked by said stop member at said lock position so as to block said sliding movement of said sliding button for ignition.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 16, wherein said sliding switch assembly further comprises a stop member supported within said housing at a position that said thumbwheel is blocked by said stop member at said lock position so as to block said sliding movement of said sliding button for ignition.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 17, wherein said thumbwheel has a projecting flange portion extended to align with said stop member to block said sliding movement of said sliding button and a return member which is extended to bias said biasing means and is arranged in such a manner that when said thumbwheel is driven to pivotally rotate, said projecting flange portion of said thumbwheel is moved to a position offset to said stop member so as to permit said sliding movement of said sliding button.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 18, wherein said thumbwheel has a projecting flange portion extended to align with said stop member to block said sliding movement of said sliding button and a return member which is extended to bias said biasing means and is arranged in such a manner that when said thumbwheel is driven to pivotally rotate, said projecting flange portion of said thumbwheel is moved to a position offset to said stop member so as to permit said sliding movement of said sliding button.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 16, wherein said biasing means comprises a cantilevered leaf spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 18, wherein said biasing means comprises a cantilevered leaf spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 20, wherein said biasing means comprises a cantilevered leaf spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 16, wherein said biasing means comprises a hairpin wire spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 18, wherein said biasing means comprises a hairpin wire spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 20, wherein said biasing means comprises a hairpin wire spring having one end anchored on said connecting member and an opposed end biasing against said thumbwheel.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 15, wherein said thumbwheel is rotatably mounted at said sliding button at a position that a serrated portion of said thumbwheel is exposed from said sliding button for facilitating said operation of said thumbwheel.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 23, wherein said thumbwheel is rotatably mounted at said sliding button at a position that a serrated portion of said thumbwheel is exposed from said sliding button for facilitating said operation of said thumbwheel.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 26, wherein said thumbwheel is rotatably mounted at said sliding button at a position that a serrated portion of said thumbwheel is exposed from said sliding button for facilitating said operation of said thumbwheel.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 15, wherein said igniting means and said gas supply are positioned at upper and bottom portions of said housing respectively that said sliding button is operatively coupled between said igniting means and said gas supply, wherein when said thumbwheel is upwardly rotated to unlock said sliding button, said sliding button is downwardly slid to open said outlet valve and activate said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 18, wherein said igniting means and said gas supply are positioned at upper and bottom portions of said housing respectively that said sliding button is operatively coupled between said igniting means and said gas supply, wherein when said thumbwheel is upwardly rotated to unlock said sliding button, said sliding button is downwardly slid to open said outlet valve and activate said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 20, wherein said igniting means and said gas supply are positioned at upper and bottom portions of said housing respectively that said sliding button is operatively coupled between said igniting means and said gas supply, wherein when said thumbwheel is upwardly rotated to unlock said sliding button, said sliding button is downwardly slid to open said outlet valve and activate said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 28, wherein said igniting means and said gas supply are positioned at upper and bottom portions of said housing respectively that said sliding button is operatively coupled between said igniting means and said gas supply, wherein when said thumbwheel is upwardly rotated to unlock said sliding button, said sliding button is downwardly slid to open said outlet valve and activate said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The igniter, as recited in claim 29, wherein said igniting means and said gas supply are positioned at upper and bottom portions of said housing respectively that said sliding button is operatively coupled between said igniting means and said gas supply, wherein when said thumbwheel is upwardly rotated to unlock said sliding button, said sliding button is downwardly slid to open said outlet valve and activate said igniting means to complete ignition at said combustion nozzle.